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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q64489

Mitsuhiro IDAKA

Appln. No.: 09/855,020

Group Art Unit: 3714

Confirmation No.: 8003

Examiner: Aaron J. Capron

Filed: May 15, 2001

For: GAME MACHINE AND NETWORK SYSTEM FOR SETTING UP GAME ENVIRONMENT THEREOF

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (without a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)) after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore a check for the fee of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is attached.

08/18/2004 JADJ01 00000057 09855020 180.00 OP
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
U.S. Appln. No.: 09/855,020

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanations from Office Actions from the Japanese Patent Office dated February 26 and May 28, 2002:

Japanese Patent Publication No. 11-253657A teaches that i) user registration information is stored in a main body of a game machine; ii) personal information is generated and recorded in accordance with a play condition of a game (cf., paragraph [0097]); iii) a communicator based on a network communication technique is provided; and iv) a skill level of a player is automatically judged to select an opponent of the game automatically in accordance with the judged skill level.

Japanese Patent Publication No. 8-503087A teaches that i) user registration information is stored in a key assembly; and ii) a player identifier based on an image recognition technique is provided (cf., pages 11 and 12).

Japanese Patent Publication Nos. 2000-308764A and 2001-300130A disclose a game machine comprising a player identifier, a data storage for storing personal information of a player, and a game environment provider which automatically establish a game environment in accordance with the personal information.

Japanese Patent Publication Nos. 11-85705A and 5-35877A disclose a personal identifier based on an image recognition technique.

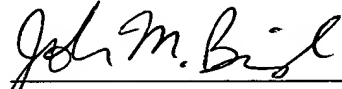
The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 09/855,020

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



John M. Bird
Registration No. 46,027

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 17, 2004

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
Application Number				09/855,020	
Confirmation Number				8003	
Filing Date				May 15, 2001	
First Named Inventor				Mitsuhira IDAKA	
Art Unit				3714	
Examiner Name				Aaron J. Capron	
Attorney Docket Number				Q64489	
Sheet	1	of	1		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		JP	11-253657	A	09/21/1999		No
		JP	8-503087	A	04/02/1996		No
		JP	2000-308764	A	11/07/2000		No
		JP	2001-300130	A	10/30/2001		No
		JP	11-85705	A	03/30/1999		No
		JP	5-35877	A	02/12/1993		No

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or follow the hyperlink from the title of the document to the intranet. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.